

## REMARKS

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the productive telephone conference conducted on May 11, 2004 in which the following items were discussed and clarified:

- Steps (c) and (d) are not contradictory since a bonus prize is awarded upon completion of a completed subset;
- The Examiner's suggested language to clarify the operation of the invention is now incorporated into the claims; and
- The present invention as claimed is novel and non-obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,581,935 (Odom).

Claims 1-9 and 16-17 are pending in the application with claims 16-17 having been newly added.

Claims 10-15 were withdrawn from consideration in an earlier action.

Claims 1-2, 5-7 and 9 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Odom (6581935).

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The claims should now be in order.

Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Odom (6581935) in view of Yoseloff (6398645).

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Odom (6581935) in view of Adams (2002/0045472).

Interview Summary

The undersigned attorney and the Examiner conducted an interview on May 11, 2004. All claims were discussed with specific reference to claim 1, and more specifically the meaning of the terms "consecutive" and "non-consecutive order" as found within the claims and discussed starting on page 9, line 29 of the specification. The Applicant argued that as defined the invention would operate differently from the Odom reference. The Examiner agreed the invention operated differently and suggested inserting the supported language "specified order" and "specified/unspecified period" be incorporated within claim 1 to clarify the distinguishing

features of the invention. The Examiner agreed that Odom designated selection of spaces in any order rather than a specified one. Applicant further argued that elements (c) and (d) were consistent since a win was not automatic but would occur given an infinite number of plays. The Examiner agreed to withdraw the Section 112, second paragraph rejection. Finally, the Applicant requested that the Examiner withdraw the Final designation of the Office Action to allow Applicant to make these requested changes. The Examiner indicated that an RCE would most likely be necessary as a new search would be conducted.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Claims 1-4 and 6-7 are amended to clarify the invention. The terms "consecutive and non-consecutive order" have been amended to incorporate language which more clearly states the operation of the invention and is clearly supported by the specification and drawings. That is, a bonus prize is awarded when either selection of the spaces occurs in the specified order over an unspecified period to form a completed subset, or selection of the spaces in the specified order occurs over a specified period to form a completed subset. As explained in applicant's previously-filed response to first Office Action, Odom makes no reference to selection of elements in a specified order. Instead, selection of the BINGO spaces (e.g. B1, B9, B14, B11 and B6 in Odom FIG. 1) can occur in any order so long as all spaces are ultimately selected to create a line. Accordingly, it would likely take a longer time to complete the bonus of the presently claimed invention than the Odom invention. Yoseloff and Adams do not contribute such features and could therefore not be combined with the Odom to teach features claimed in the present invention.

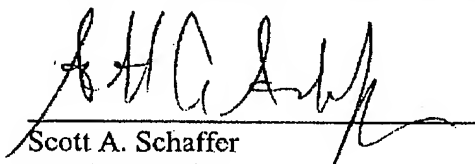
The remaining claims cite features not found in the prior art and are likewise patentable.

## CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-9 and 16-17 of the application as amended is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case. It is apparent to the applicants that the present invention has clear and nonobvious differences over the prior art of record and believes that the present claim language addresses those differences. However, the undersigned welcomes the Examiner's suggestions on how best to claim those distinctions and looks forward to discussing these issues in a future telephone call.

Respectfully submitted,

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